

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of June 2, 2005, claims 1-20 have been cancelled and new claims 21-42 have been added. Claims 21-42 are currently pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

I. Interview Summary

A phone interview was conducted on September 14, 2005 between the undersigned attorney and Examiner Thanh. The Examiner's summary of the interview, which was mailed on September 19, 2005, is accurate. In addition to the subject matter described in the Examiner's summary of the interview, U.S. Patent No. 5,716,332 was also discussed.

II. Claim Rejections

In the Office Action of June 2, 2005, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-14 were rejected under numerous grounds. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, new claims 21-42 have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. New claims 21-42 focus more particularly on a novel and non-obvious arrangement for linking a hand-held massage unit to an elongated bar. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims 1-20 in subsequent continuation applications.

III. Claims 21-32

New claim 21 relates to a massage system including a hand-held massage unit, an elongated bar, and a bracket for connecting the hand-held massage unit to the elongated bar. The hand-held massage unit includes a handle and a head that is enlarged relative to the handle. An electrically powered, percussive massager mechanism is located at the head of the unit. The handle of the unit projects outwardly from the head and includes a length that extends from a first end to a second end of the handle. The head of the unit is located at the first end of the handle, and an electric cord is connected at the second end of the handle. The bracket of the massage system is configured for allowing the hand-held massage unit to be moved up and down along a length of the elongated bar to adjust an elevation of the massage unit. The bracket includes a central member that extends generally between first and second ends of the bracket.

First and second pivotal clamping arms are located at opposite ends of the bracket. Each of the clamping arms is pivotally connected to the central member. The first clamping arm is adapted for clamping the handle of the hand-held massage unit, and the second clamping arm is adapted for clamping the elongated bar.

It is submitted that none of the prior art of record in the present application, either alone or in reasonable combination, teaches or suggests the novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited by claim 21. For example, none of the prior art references, either alone or in reasonable combination, teaches or suggests a bracket having a central member and two pivotable clamping arms for clamping a hand-held massage unit to an elongated bar, as claimed. Also, none of the references, either alone or in reasonable combination, teaches or suggests a massage system including a hand-held massage unit having an enlarged head and a handle that projects outwardly from the head, an elongated bar, and a bracket that connects to the elongated bar and also connects to the handle of the hand-held massage unit, as claimed.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that claim 21 is in immediate condition for allowance. Moreover, it is noted that claim 21 recites the same basic limitations as claim 29 of the Proposed Amendment discussed at the September 14, 2005 interview. At the September 14, 2005 interview, the Examiner noted that proposed claim 29 appeared to have inventive features that may be patentable.

New claims 22-32 depend upon and further limit claim 21. Therefore, for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 21, it is submitted that claims 22-32 are also in immediate condition for allowance.

IV. Claims 33-42

New claim 33 relates to a massage system including a hand-held massage unit including an electrically powered, percussive massage mechanism, an elongated bar, and a linkage for connecting the hand-held massage unit to the elongated bar. The linkage includes a central member for offsetting the hand-held massage unit from the elongated bar. The linkage also includes a first clamping arm for clamping the linkage to the elongated bar. The first clamping arm is pivotally connected to a first end of the central member. The linkage further includes a

second clamping arm for clamping the linkage to the hand-held massage unit. The second clamping arm is pivotally connected to a second end of the central member. It is submitted that none of the prior art references of record in the present application, either alone or in reasonable combination, teaches or suggests the novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited by claim 33. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 33 is in immediate condition for allowance. Similarly, for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 33, it is submitted that dependent claims 34-42 are also in immediate condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

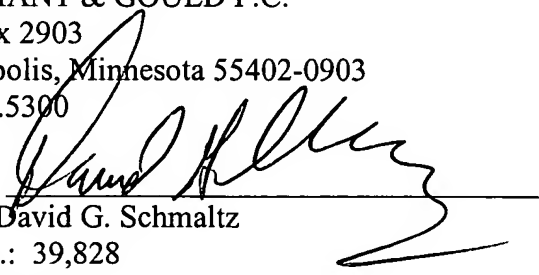
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims. Please direct any inquiries concerning this application to the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4617.



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Respectfully submitted,

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